

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention relates to a ~~heat pump~~ drying apparatus used for drying clothing or bathroom, or for a vending machine, and to an operating method of the ~~heat pump~~ drying apparatus.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention has been accomplished in view of the conventional problems, and it is an object of the invention to provide a ~~heat pump~~ drying apparatus which enhances its efficiency while avoiding the excessive rise of the discharge pressure of the compressor also under a high outside temperature condition when a refrigerant that is brought into a supercritical state on the radiation side of a heat pump cycle such as CO₂ is used as a refrigerant.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A first aspect of the present invention provides ~~an operating method of a heat pump apparatus in which a refrigerant is circulated through a compressor, a radiator, a first throttle apparatus, a heat exchanger, a second throttle apparatus and an evaporator in this order, wherein the heat exchanger is switched to a second evaporator or a second radiator by operating the first throttle apparatus, or both the first throttle apparatus and the second throttle apparatus~~ a drying apparatus comprising a heat pump apparatus in which a refrigerant is circulated through a compressor, a radiator, a first throttle apparatus, a heat exchanger, a second throttle apparatus and an evaporator in this order, a circulation duct through which drying air is circulated and in which the radiator, the heat exchanger and the evaporator are disposed in this order from upstream side of flow of the drying air, and a drying room connected to the circulation duct.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A second aspect of the present invention provides ~~[[a]] an operating method of a heat pump apparatus, in the operating method of the heat pump~~ in the drying apparatus of the first aspect, the heat exchanger is used as [[the]] a second evaporator or a second radiator by operating the first throttle apparatus and the throttle apparatus.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to a third aspect of the invention, in the ~~heat pump~~ drying apparatus of the ~~second~~ first aspect, the ~~heat pump~~ drying apparatus further comprises discharge pressure detecting means for detecting discharge pressure of the compressor, and throttle apparatus control means for controlling the first throttle apparatus and the second throttle apparatus using a detection value from the discharge pressure detecting means.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to a fourth aspect of the invention, in the ~~heat pump~~ drying apparatus of the ~~second~~ first aspect, the ~~heat pump~~ drying apparatus further comprises discharge temperature detecting means for detecting discharge temperature of the compressor, and throttle apparatus control means for controlling the first throttle apparatus and the second throttle apparatus using a detection value from the discharge temperature detecting means.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to a fifth aspect of the invention, in the ~~heat pump~~ drying apparatus of ~~any one of the second to fourth aspects~~ the first aspect, the ~~heat pump~~ drying apparatus further comprises air temperature detecting means for detecting inlet air temperature of the evaporator, and throttle apparatus control means for controlling the first throttle apparatus and the second throttle apparatus using a detection value from the air temperature detecting means.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to a sixth aspect of the invention, in the ~~operating method of the heat pump~~ drying apparatus of the first aspect, a high pressure side of the heat pump apparatus is operated as a supercritical state.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to a seventh aspect of the invention, in the ~~operating method of the heat pump~~ drying apparatus of the first aspect, carbon dioxide is used as the refrigerant.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 34, and bridging to page 17, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The ~~heat pump~~ drying apparatus of the present invention can suitably be used for drying clothing, bathroom and the like. Further, the heat pump apparatus can also be used for other application such as for drying tableware, garbage and the like, and can also be applied to a vending machine and the like.